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Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------020534 301534Z /42
O 301435Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2875
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDAITE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDAITE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 5595

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE FROM AMBASSADOR WEST

CAIRO FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, SA, US
SUBJECT: LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER,HRH PRINCE SAUD

REF: (A) RIYADH 625 (B) RIYADH 626

1. DURING CALL ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOURI ON JULY 29 CONCERNING OTHER MATTERS (SEE REFTELS), HE TOOK OCCASION TO HAND ME AN UNSIGNED LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER, PRINCE SAUD, ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY VANCE CONCERNING THE REACTION OF SAG TO AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S VISIT. TEXT FOLLOWS BELOW, FREELY TRANSLATED. LETTER WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:
HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. CYRUS VANCE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
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IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR ALFRED ATHERTON AT FAIF ON JULY 23, 1978 WHEN HE COAME TO BRIEF ME AND SAUDI OFFICIALS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE LEEDS TALKS BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATIONS CONCERNING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP; AND ON THE STPES WHICH THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO TAKE IN ORDER TO

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ACHIEVE THE CHERISHED COMPRESENSIVE PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT. I NEED NOT SAY THAT WE DID NOT
EXPECT THE LEEDS TALKS TO YIELD ANY POSITIVE
RESULTS BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S WELL KNOWN INFLEXIBILITY,
INTRANSIGENCE, AND PROCRASTINATION IN AGREEING TO
A (STATEMENT) OF BASIC PRINCIPLES ON WHICH AN OVER-
ALL PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WHICH WE ARE ALL STRIVING
FOR, MIGHT REST; AND ALSO BECAUSE ISRALE BELIEVES
THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME IT WILL REALIZE
ITS OWN ILLEGAL OBJECTIVES.
ON THE ONE HAND, I HAVE REVIEWED WITH AMBASSADOR
ATHERTON THE NEW COURSE WHICH THE UNITED STATES IN-
TENDS TO PURSUE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A FINAL
SETTLEMENT BY RETURNING TO THE STEP-BY-STEP POLICY
AND THROUGH CONTINUED CONTACTS AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO CONCERNED PARTIES DURING THE FIVE-YEAR
TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WITH AN ISRAELI PRE-AGREEMENT TO
THE BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH (WOULD) CONSTITUTE A
GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR A COMPRESENSIVE SETTLEMENT
AND A FIRM BASIS FOR THE DETAILS THEREOF. ON THE
OTHER HAND, WE ALSO REVIEWED THE UNITED STATES'
UNWILLINGNESS TO ADOPT AN ATTITUDE SEPARATE FROM
THAT OF THE CONCERNED PARTIES; RATHER, THE UNITED
STATES WHISHES TO BASE ITS POSITION (POSTURE) ON
MID-SOLUTIONS WHICH IT ENDEAVORS TO ADOPT THROUGH
THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.
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IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO STAT IN THE CONTEXT OF
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAT SAUDI
ARABIA BELIEVES THAT THE STEP-BY-STEP SYSTEM WILL
NOT ACCOMPLISH THE FINAL GOAL; E.E. A COMPREHENSIVE
SOLUTION ESTABLISHING EQUITABLE PEACE IN THE REGION
BECAUSE THE NATURE OF THIS PROCEDURE IMPLIES
ARRIVING AT APRTIAL, INDIVIDUALISTIC SOLUTIONS
UNACCEPTABLE TO THE INVOLVED ARAB PARTIES, AND
WHICH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED BY TYEM EVEN IF THEY
WISHED TO, OWING TO WHAT IT (THIS COURSE OF ACTION)
CAUSES, BY WIDENING THE PRESENT GAP AMONG THE ARAB
STATES IN GENERAL, AND AMONG THE CONCERNED ARAB
COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR. IT IS WORTH CONSIDERATION
THAT TO PURSUE SUCH A METHOD COMES AT A TIME WHEN
SAUDI ARABIA IS TAKING PAINS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH
MODERATE ARAB STATES, TO RESTORE SOLIDARITY TO THE
ARAB WORLD, WHICH HAS BEEN IMMENSELY AFFECTED, AS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 5595

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE FROM AMBASSADOR WEST

CAIRO FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

YOU KNOW, IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S
INITIATIVE. THUS, A RETURN TO THE STEP-BY-STEP
POLICY WILL RESULT, AS YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL REALIZE,
IN THE WASTING OF THESE EFFORTS, AND WILL TURN THE
ARAB WORLD, AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE REGION, INTO A STATE OF CON-
FLICT AND INSTABILITY, A SITUATION WHICH SHOULD BEST BE AVOIDED.

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVES FIRMLY THAT
CONTINUED CONTACTS AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO SIDES IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF SINCE THE
RISKS AND PERILS (OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS) WOULD
BE GRAVE FOR THE REGION, WHETHER WE WERE TO VIEW THE AREA
NARROWLY OR UPON SOME MORE EXPANDED VIEW. HENCE, TO AVOID
SUCH RISKS AND PERILS, A PRE-AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC
PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE FINAL, COMPREHENSIVE EQUITABLE
SOLUTION SHOULD REST OUGHT TO PRECEDE ANY ON-GOING CONTACTS
AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS SO THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS
WILL YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS. THE CHERISHED OBJECTIVE
ESPECIALLY THAT OF ARRIVING AT AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC
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PRINCIPLES, REPRESENTS THE POSITIVE ASPECT IN THE
UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB CIRCLES IN REJECTING PRESIDENT SADAT'S
PEACE INITIATIVE. FAILURE TO REACH THIS AGREEMENT
(ON BASIC PRINCIPLES) WILL RESULT IN EVALUATING THAT

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(SADAT'S) INITIATIVES AS ACHIEVING ONLY SHEER
FRUSTRATION FOR THE ARAB WORLD. YOUR EXCELLENCY UNDOUBTEDLY
SHARES WITH ME THE CONCERNS OF THIS INEVITABLE VIEW. ADDING
TO THE PERILS OF PROCEEDING WITH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE
DECLARATION OF BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR A SOLUTION IS THE FACT
THAT THE ARAB WORLD. EXPECTS AT ANY MOMENT A DECLARATION
SO SUCH PRINCIPLES AS A STEP IN PREPARING THE ATMOSPHERE FOR
THE RESTORATION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY, AND SUBSEQUENT TO THAT THE
PROSPECT THAT THE CONCERNED ARAB STATES WOULD JOIN THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND DRIVE TOWARD THE CHERISHED
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

IF THE ARAB WORLD FEELS FRUSTRATION WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENT
SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND THOSE MODERATE POWERS
SUPPORTING HIM, THE ARAB WORLD WILL ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE
THE SAME SENSE OF FRUSTRATION WHEN IT REALIZES THA THE UNITED
STATES WILL NOT TAKE AN INDEPENDENT STANCE OVER THE MIDDLE EAST
ISSUE IN ALL OF ITS ASPECTS AND WILL NOT
ENDEAVOR TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ISRAEL FOR THE
ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH (U.S.) STANCE, WHICH THE FRIENDS OF THE
UNITED STATES IN THE AREA, FOREMOST AMONG WHICH IS EGYPT, ARE
BEGINNING MOST IMPATIENTLY TO ANTICIPATE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY SHARE WITH ME THE VIEW OF THE NECESSITY FOR
EXERTING INCREASED EFFORTS FOR REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON THE
BASIC PRINCIPLES AND MAKING THEM PUBLIC BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH
DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS OR RETURNING TO THE
STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE. SHOULD A DECLARATION OF THESE
BASIC PRINCIPLES BE IMPOSSIBLE, YOU MAY AGREE WITH ME ON THE
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NECESSITY FOR DECLARATION OF AN INDEPENDENT
U.S. STAND TO INCLUDE SUCH REQUIRED
BASIC PRINCIPLES, AND CONFIRM THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION SO AS TO AVOID
THE FRUSTRATINS AS EXPLAINED IN THIS LETTER.

WHILE LOOKING FORWARD CONSTANTLY TO THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
AND CONTINUED CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO
GOVERNMENTS FOR THE GOOD AND STABILITY OF OUR TWO
COUNTRIES, THE ARAB WORLD AND THE FREE WORLD, PLEASE
ACCEPT MY WARM REGARDS AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR
CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINES. SAUD AL-FAISAL. END TEXT.

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